THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Government have decided that Airports Authority of India (AAI) would undertake the development and modernisation of selected 35 non-Metro airports, including Terminal Buildings. The city side development of select airports from amongst these 35 non-Metro airports will be taken up in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Expansion and modernisation of airports in Tamil Nadu

3503. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu had requested the Ministry to expand airports at Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai and Tuticorin and also requested for modernization of Madurai and Trichy airports;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard;

(c) whether speedy action will be taken to expand and modernize the Madurai airport with international connectivity; and

(d) if so, the time-frame by which the said modernization will take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steps taken are as follows:

At Coimbatore works related to extension and strengthening of runways, expansion and strengthening of apron, expansion and modification of terminal building with all modern facilities including two aero-bridges have been taken up. At Tiruchipalli airport the work related to extension and strengthening of runway, construction of new integrated building with all modern facilities including two aero-bridges has been taken up. At Madurai airport extension of runway alongwith expansion of apron, construction of new fire station, construction of new integrated terminal complex with all modern facilities including two aero-bridges have been taken up. At Tuticorin airport the facilities are presently suitable for the operation of ATR-72

type of aircraft under fair weather conditions. Action has been initiated for providing night landing facilities.

(c) and (d) Tender action has been initiated for taking up construction of new integrated terminal building complex for handling 500 international and domestic passengers at a time with all modern facilities including two aero-bridges at Madurai airport. The project is likely to be com m issioned by March, 2009.

Modernization of ATC system

3504. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernize air traffic control system and build safety standards with the assistance of USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would enhance navigation in all phases of flight, make routing more flexible and efficient, increase safety of landing, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Agreement (Umbrella Agreement) between the Indian Civil Aviation Authority (Ministry of Civil Aviation) and Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) of USA has been signed on 13th November, 2006. The agreement provides for assistance by FAA to the Civil Aviation sector in India in developing and modernizing the civil aviation infrastructure in the managerial, operational and technical areas. All assistance under this agreement will be on the basis of reimbursement of costs. The technical assistance to be provided by FAA may, *inter-alia,* include the following:

- Provide technical assistance related to issues addressed under a Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA);
- Providing technical and managerial expertise to assist the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in developing, improving and operating its civil aviation infrastructure, standards, procedures, training and equipment;